

communication from Applicants, filed September 2, 1997 - "Communication under 37 C.F.R. §1.607(c)"). It is respectfully submitted that the Applicants' effective filing date is April 1, 1991, not August 2, 1994 as contended by the Examiner. The Examiner, in maintaining his rejection, contends that the disclosure in Applicants' earlier parent application (Serial No. 07/678,863, filed April 1, 1991 and now abandoned) of the use of a pre-paid magnetic card does not support the later disclosure in the present application of payment via a credit card. On the contrary, however, the Examiner's attention is further directed to page 1, line 35-36 of application Serial No. 07/678,863 which states "[alternatively, the customer may use a credit card to make payment. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9/27/02



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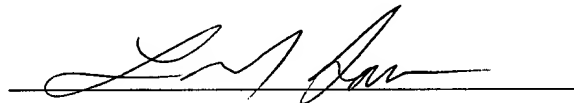
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box DAC, Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on September 27, 2002.



Laura Barrow